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A Year
By Mail

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Three Dollars
A Year
By Carrier

FORTY-SECOND YEAR.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1921.

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HISTORICAL FLASHLIGHTS ON COLUMBUS

HIGH POINTS OF OUR PROGRESS TOUCHED BY CENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN

MR. R. E. JOHNSTON

First House Built In City Was In 1817.—First Store Established In 1819.—Many Other Facts.

In 1540 Hernando DeSoto crossed the Tombigbee River near Columbus on his expedition to the west, when he discovered the Mississippi River. He was the first European to tread the soil of this part of the country.

Capt. Bernard Romans, a Hollander by birth and at one time an officer in the British Army, visited this section in 1770—1771, on a fluvial expedition down the Tombigbee River.

Fort Choctaw, or Cedar Log Fort, was established at Old Plymouth, near Columbus by the Spaniards in 1790.

Columbus was formerly an Indian trading post, known as Shuk-ho-ta Tom-a-ha, or O'Possum Town.

The land on which Columbus is located was ceded by the Choctaw Indians to the United States Government on October 24, 1816.

Military Road, extending from New Orleans, La., Nashville, Tenn., passes through Columbus. This road was built by the U. S. War Department during the years 1817—1820, on the recommendation of Gen. Andrew Jackson.

John Pitchlyn was the first white man to reside permanently on the soil of what is now Lowndes County. He was born on the island of St. Thomas in 1760. Previous to his coming to this county he had served as Government interpreter with the Indians for forty years. He died in 1835.

The first house in Columbus (a log cabin hut) was built in 1817 by Thomas Thomas (or Thomas Moore, as he was also called) upon the ground where the residence of Mr. Jas. B. Cox now stands, at the corner of Main and Third streets.

The first stock of merchandise was brought to Columbus in 1819 by Robt. D. Haden, from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The first hotel was opened in 1819 by Richard Barry on the site now occupied by the Gilmer Hotel or the First State Bank (authorities differ on this point).

It was upon the suggestion of Silas McBee that the village received the name of "Columbus."

According to the records of the U. S. Postoffice Department the Columbus postoffice was established March 3, 1820, and Thomas Sampson was appointed postmaster. (It is claimed by some authorities that Gideon Linecum was the first postmaster.)

Gideon Linecum, who came to the village in 1819, was physician, botanist, entomologist, and historian, besides being connected with all local activities. He left Mississippi in 1848 for Texas, where he died in 1873.

In 1821 Monroe county, of which Columbus was then a part, was organized, the first sheriff being Bartlett Sims, elected in 1822.

On February 10, 1821, by act of the Legislature, Franklin Academy was established—the first free public school in Mississippi, antedating all others by twenty-four years.

Wm. L. Moore was the first mayor of Columbus.

The first steamboat—the "Cotton Plant"—came to Columbus in 1822, under command of Capt. Chandler.

In 1821 Columbus had a population of about 100.

In 1831 Columbus had a population of 500.

In 1840 Columbus had a population of 2,500.

Robinson Road, which runs in a southwesterly direction from Columbus, was established by the Legislature of 1821, from Jackson to Columbus, through the Choctaw Nation for the transportation of mails. This road is mentioned in the text of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty in 1830 and in the bill extending the Lowndes County line in 1831.

In January, 1830, Lowndes County was organized out of the southern portion of Monroe County and named after the South Carolina statesman, William Lowndes.

The first court-house was built in 1832, by a county tax and a subscrip-

MAGNIFICENT PYROTECHNIC EXHIBITION

THOUSANDS OF COLUMBIANS AND VISITORS SEE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

THURSDAY NIGHT

Nothing Omitted That Would In Any Way Contribute To The Pleasure And Enjoyment Of The Great Throng

It was fitting that our great Centennial celebration should end in a blaze of glory, and the blaze of glory came in the form of a magnificent pyrotechnic display, Thursday night, at the historic and time-honored Franklin Academy, the oldest free school in the Magnolia State, an institution that is co-existent with the city of Columbus itself.

It speaks well for the gentlemen who mapped and planned and builded for the celebration that they included a display of fireworks in the exercises. Not only do the children enjoy a pyrotechnic display, but older people as well like to see the bright lights and hear the rockets as they tear at a terrific pace through the air.

The fireworks display last night was the best display ever seen here because of the fact that there were so many pieces the like of which our people had never seen. The manufacturers of fireworks, like other manufacturers, are constantly trying to improve on their work, and the display last night showed that new ideas have been put into powder. When the writer was a boy the sky-rockets simple shot into space in a streak of fire. Last night there were sky-rockets that shot into space in a streak of fire and then at a great altitude burst into a shower of stars; others developed a multitude of wheels; some brought out great lights as off a thousand incandescents; that floated over the city in a wonderful blaze; while still others discharged dozens of smaller rockets as they leaped into the sky.

There were giant pin-wheels that gave off flames of many colors. There were mines that exploded with a great noise and with lights that were reflected on the sky. There was one piece that reminded the beholder of the Falls of Niagara, except that in place of volumes of water showering in silver spray there were streams of fire falling to the ground.

The fireworks display continued for about an hour, and concluded, most appropriately, with a fiery flag, a representation of Old Glory in lights of red and white and blue. A tremendous shout of applause went up when the flag of our country thus appeared outlined in flame against the sky.

The grandeur of the pyrotechnic display added another star to the crown of success worn by the Centennial Committee, a committee that has wrought nobly for our unsurpassed municipality.

It stood by the citizens of the town. It stood on the southwest corner of the present court-house square.

The first officers of Lowndes County were: Nimrod Davis, sheriff; Wm. Dowling, circuit clerk; Robt. D. Haden, probate clerk; Isaac R. Nicholson, circuit judge.

About 1833 the first bank was organized—the Planters' Bank of Natchez—on the site now occupied by the City Hall.

In 1831 the Methodists erected the first Church in Columbus on the corner east of the present Jewish Synagogue. Previous to that time the various religious denominations used the Franklin Academy as a place of worship.

In accordance with the term of the treaty, the Choctaw Indians moved from Lowndes County in 1832.

The first newspaper—The Southern Argus—was established in 1833, the editors being S. Nash and G. W. Bonnell.

The meaning of the Indian name for Tombigbee, or Tom-beck-be, is "Box Maker."

For Bhattahatchie the Indian meaning is "Pretty River."

For Loxapallia the meaning is "Floating Turtle."

The oldest store building now standing is at the southwest corner of Main

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THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Last Sunday morning we were looking forward to the Centennial celebration. Today we view it retrospectively as a pleasant recollection that lingers and that will occupy a chamber in the palace of memory for many days to come.

The Dispatch cannot see how any man can think of the Centennial celebration without thinking of it as a great and outstanding success. It was planned by a business man, in a business-like way, and he was supported by committees of business men who helped him direct things as a cabinet helps a president in shaping the affairs of a nation. The wheels within wheels moved smoothly and regularly because they were oiled with intelligence and foresight. The Centennial superstructure, erected on a foundation of civic pride, had no rough edges or corners, for they were removed by patient labor and unremitting endeavor. As there were many people to please, and a multiplicity of tastes to satisfy, so there were many forms of amusement provided.

To the mind of the writer it seems that no single event of the celebration can be picked out as being worthy of special note, unless, perhaps, it might be the parades. They were the really big undertaking, requiring the greatest amount of time, labor and expense.

The home-coming religious service at the First Methodist Church last Sunday night; the formal opening exercises on Wednesday, when Governor Russell and some of our old "boys" spoke; the splendid demonstration by the Department of Physical Education of the M. S. C. W.; and the brilliant crown and climax of the celebration, the magnificent display of fireworks last night, all stand out as events of more than ordinary importance. Singly and as a whole, it was a great achievement, worthy the time and effort of a great people.

To Mr. R. E. Johnston, the Centennial Chairman, is due of course the greater praise. In season and out of season, day and night, at home and elsewhere, Sundays and week days, he thought, planned and worked for the success of the Centennial celebration. But it was something that could not be accomplished by any one man. He had the hearty and enthusiastic support of the people of Columbus; and each individual, whether he contributed a large sum of money, sold souvenirs, gave direction to visitors, or let the light burn at night on his front gallery, performed a share of the work that contributed to the success of the great undertaking.

We now face the making of another century of history. How will it be made? We honor the men and the women who wrought from 1821 forward that the foundation of our greatness might be securely laid; that our social and civic fabric might become the admiration and pride of their descendants. A hundred years from today another generation of people will be looking backward and critically viewing our work. We must discharge our duties as citizens in such a way that there will be nothing in our accomplishments to cause any future Columbian to feel shame. It was the dying boast of Pericles that he had never caused an Athenian to blush. Let us so live and so order our conduct that when the shadows of our lives begin to lengthen, and we go down the westward slope, we can say we have never brought shame upon our beautiful city. We have the Bible, Hugo, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Schubert, Beethoven, and hundreds of great writers and scientists from which to draw inspiration. Let's give less time to jazzology and joy rides and draw from sources that will build us up spiritually, physically and mentally. Let us develop the very best that's in us and dedicate it to civil and social advancement, to the upbuilding of a race that will be able in the last great day to stand the scrutiny of the eye that sees all things, and from which nothing can be concealed.

Railroad Strike Seems Unavoidable, But Hope Is Held Out It May Be Averted

Interstate Commerce Commission And Heads Of Brotherhoods Consult In Friendly Way But Cannot Reach Agreement. Only Hope Now Is In Harding.

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 20.—Efforts by the railroad labor board to avert the threatened railroad strike through conferences with heads of the five unions which have ordered a walkout, effective October 30, failed when the meeting adjourned tonight with the announcement by the board that "while the discussions were beneficial, no definite results were obtained."

"There has been a full and frank discussion of the situation," said a statement given out by Ben W. Hooper, vice chairman of the board. "The labor board and the brotherhood chiefs exchanged views in a perfectly pleasant way. The interview was beneficial, but we cannot say that any definite results were obtained."

"The adjournment is final," chairman R. M. Barton of the labor board announced. "We do not plan any further conferences with the labor leaders nor do we plan, at present, to call in the railroad president. I cannot say what our next step might be."

While the board members came out of the afternoon session smiling and in a jovial mood, they left the night meeting with solemn faces and refused to publicly discuss the session—aside from the statement by Chairman Barton and Vice Chairman Hooper.

One union president, following a conference of the five chiefs, which followed the afternoon labor board meeting, declared that "two lives are at stake in the present conferences."

"The labor board, according to reports in Washington, is fighting for its life and its future depends on its ability to settle this matter," he said. "So we are fighting for our lives and the future of railroad labor depends on our ability to protect our employees in this situation."

The eleven "standard" unions marked time today awaiting the outcome of the labor board meeting.

The five union presidents departed for their organization headquarters tonight with the announcement that plans for the proposed strike would go right ahead.

The union leaders said the board had not presented anything which they looked upon as in any way a tangible proposition.

"It's somebody's next move," said the head of one of the larger of the five organizations. "Whether it's ours, the board's or the railroads' I don't know. I only know that the board brought us here and talked four hours without presenting anything which we could even consider as a compromise. The meeting was

absolutely without results. We are going back to our headquarters. There is nothing scheduled immediately, except to go right ahead with the plans for the strike."

Members of the board said that while the conference had ended and no immediate plans had been made, it still was possible to hold further meetings with the labor men before the date of the scheduled walkout arrives.

"The board is determined to go as far as possible under the law," one member said, "and if it is unable to accomplish anything it will be the fault of the law rather than that of the board. We are satisfied that some governmental agency will find a solution, as every possible angle of the matter is being investigated down at Washington."

None of the board members would indicate an optimistic view of the day's proceedings. Some members were inclined to the view that even tantamount to a violation of a board the issuance of a strike order was decision and that the brotherhoods could properly be cited to appear before the board for a formal determination as to whether its orders had been defied.

"The entire board feels that it is much better informed on the situation, and we hope that some good may yet result from the board's inquiry," said this member.

Board members said that the labor chiefs remained inflexible in maintaining that the present fight was a fight for the life of their organizations. The difficulties in the present controversy were declared by the union men, it was said, to be entirely the fault of the carriers, the brotherhood men taking the position that many railroads had violated the board's orders. They made it clear to the board, however, members said, that they did not consider the violations the fault of the board, but due to the fact that the transportation act had "no teeth."

Prior statements of the brotherhood leaders have repeatedly asserted that the question of working rules, which they had been years in working up, was the crux of the whole situation. Practically nothing was said in the conference today about the 12 per cent wage reduction of last July 1, which was the technical basis on which the strike was called, it was learned.

Members of the board said they did not consider that the board had exhausted its powers and that an executive session would be held tomorrow, when further procedure would be determined.

Tupelo Presbyterians Go "Over The Top"

Word was received yesterday that the Presbyterians of Tupelo had gone over-the-top in raising their quota in the campaign for Southwestern Presbyterian College which was finished there yesterday noon. At a meeting of the committee in the beginning of the local campaign it was decided to ask for \$7000 which, in proportion to their benevolence budget was a very liberal quota to ask of that church. Some of the most optimistic members thought it was almost an impossible undertaking but they were not deterred in their effort and the final figures showed they had raised \$8,213 with some more to come in. Dr. J. S. Baird, who was in charge of the work, says this places the Tupelo church in the lead of the churches in Mississippi Synod that have been worked in exceeding their quota.

Dr. Baird came in from Tupelo last night and is registered at the Gilmer. When seen he said "The interest shown by the people of Tupelo, regardless of denomination, makes us feel that the proposed removal of Southwestern to Memphis meets with hearty popular favor. We are encountering this same interest wherever we go and it is gratifying indeed." Dr. Baird will be in Columbus

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Interesting Relics At Light Co. Office

Should anyone desire to see the wonderful progress made since the year 1812, they would only have to go to the large windows of the Columbus Light & Power Company, for in this window is an old hand made iron which must be very old, though Mr. D. T. Gaston has no idea as to its age. This old looking old iron stands at one corner in the window, while the iron of today stands in the other corner, the latter being the electric iron.

Old Confederate money is also in the window, and some old money in use today. An old check made payable to Mr. Jefferson Davis is quite an interesting relic.

The candle snuffers which were bought in the year 1820 are one of the most interesting relics which are being seen this week. They were used in cutting the wick, thereby extinguishing the light of the candle. The candle sits opposite the electric light of today, which is another example of progress.

The belt money purse, which was used in bringing money back from the gold fields of California, is quite interesting. It could be filled and then belted around the waist of any man. Mr. Gaston told of how, back in the

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